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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,101	09/04/2001	Hiroshi Saito	040894-5703	1751
9629	7590	01/06/2006		
MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP 1111 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW WASHINGTON, DC 20004			EXAMINER JACKSON, JAKIEDA R	
			ART UNIT 2655	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/944,101

Applicant(s)

SAITO, HIROSHI

Examiner

Jakieda R. Jackson

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In response to the Office Action mailed July 25, 2005, applicant submitted an amendment filed on October 24, 2005, in which the applicant canceled claims 1-8 and 10-11 and added new claims 12-17.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant argues that the art of record does not teach or suggest at least the features of setting means for permitting a user to preset a narrowing-down condition, and extracting means that extracts a dictionary associated with the narrowing down condition preset by the user as the list of queuing words. However, applicant's arguments are not persuasive. Hatano teaches that place and facility names are registered in advance, which is a part of the hierarchy (column 8, paragraphs 0038-0039 and column 9, paragraphs 0043-0050). Therefore, applicant's amendment has been considered but is not persuasive.

Claim Objections

3. The Specification is objected to because the term "voice recognition" is misused for what nowadays is called --speech recognition-- in the speech signal processing art. While "voice recognition" and "speech recognition" were both once used interchangeably to refer to spoken word recognition, nowadays these two terms are distinguished. The term "voice recognition" now denotes identification of who is doing the speaking (class 704/246), while "speech recognition" (or word recognition) denotes

identification of what is being said (class 704/251). So, appropriate correction to the proper terms of art is required (claims 12-17).

4. Claim 17 fails to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim (claim 12).

Applicant is advised that should claim 12 be found allowable, claim 17 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03 (k).

5. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Claim 13, line 3, "dictionaries a lower-order", should be --dictionaries at a lower-order--.

Appropriate correction is required.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 2655

7. **Claims 12-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hatano et al. (EP 0 935 123 A2), hereinafter referenced as Hatano.

Regarding **claims 12, 16, and 17**, Hatano discloses a speech recognition unit and method, comprising:

- a plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries (figure 2A);
- extracting means for extracting the contents of specific dictionaries as a list of queuing words (plural kinds of place names or facility names which are frequently set as destination spot may be selected and registered in advance; column 8, lines 46-51);
- storage means for temporarily storing the extracted list of queuing words (column 8, lines 46-54);
- recognition means for recognizing an input voice command (spoken word is inputted) by comparing the input voice command and the list of queuing words stored in the storage means and the speech recognition characterized by (column 8, lines 20-27);
- setting means for permitting a user to preset a narrowing-down condition (column 8, paragraphs 0038-0039 and column 9, paragraphs 0043-0050, and wherein the extracting means extracts a dictionary at the highest level of the hierarchy and a dictionary associated with the narrowing-down condition preset by the user as the list of queuing words from the plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries when a recognition process starts (column 9, paragraphs 0043-0050).

Regarding **claim 13**, Hatano discloses the speech recognition unit and method wherein the extracting means extracts from the plurality of hierarchically stored speech

recognition dictionaries at a lower-order hierarchical dictionary (figure 2A) used for recognition by the recognition means each time the recognition of the recognition means is performed, until a recognition result of the recognition means becomes an institutional name (column 9, paragraphs 0020-0051).

Regarding **claim 14**, Hatano discloses the speech recognition unit and method wherein the plurality of speech recognition dictionaries comprises;

a classification dictionary storing classification names of institutions (figure 2A, element 32 with column 8, lines 46-51); and

an institution dictionary storing names of institutions (amusement parks, hospital, resort, etc.) which belong to respective classification of institutions (figure 2A, elements 61-63 with column 12, lines 25-33).

Regarding **claim 15**, Hatano discloses a speech recognition unit and method wherein the plurality of speech recognition dictionaries comprises:

an area dictionary storing area names (city; figure 2A, element 53); and

an institution dictionary storing the names of institutions existing in respective areas (figure 2A, elements 64-66 with column 11, lines 30-36).

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

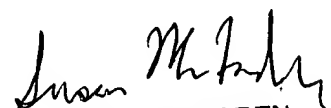
TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jakieda R. Jackson whose telephone number is 571.272.7619. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on 571.272.7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JRJ
December 31, 2005


SUSAN MCFADDEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER